

## Department of Fish and Game

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## Central Coast Region Trout in the Classroom Program

## End of Year Tank Clean-up

At the end of the season, it is important to clean your aquarium set-up in order to ensure a successful next year. If you take a few minutes to make sure everything is clean, your equipment will have a much longer life. Here are a few pointers for cleaning the various components of your chilled aquarium set-up:

**Aquarium Tank**

- Turn off the electrical pumps, chillers, filters, etc.
- Empty the tank, disconnect tubing (clean tubes using long brushes you can buy at any pet shop).
- Using a solution of 1 part Chlorine bleach (Clorox) and 10 parts water, wipe down the interior
- AND exterior of the tank. A soft sponge (dedicated to this use only) can be used to scrub hard to
- remove scale and algae growth.
- You can use the 1:10 bleach solution for cleaning out the tubing.
- Wipe dry with clean cloth, or let air-dry.
- If you have any pebbles or gravel in the tank, they should be removed, washed, and dried by laying out on a cloth or towel in the sun or a ventilated area.

**Aquarium Chiller***Drop-in style chiller (Glacier)*

- Using bleach solution and a dedicated sponge, wipe off the stainless steel Freon tubing.
- For hard-to-remove plaque, a small PLASTIC scrub brush can be used. NEVER USE A WIRE
- BRUSH ON THESE TUBES.
- Remove dust and lint from the fins of the coolant tubing (those black thin metal slats on the side of the chiller). This can be accomplished using a small vacuum cleaner, dusting cloth or soft bristle plastic dust brush. Your chiller will run more efficiently if you clean the lint and dust from this side of it.

*Flow-through style chiller (Arctica Titanium)*

- Rinse pre-filter sponge on pump thoroughly with water, and let air-dry.
- Using pump, flush chiller with clean water to ensure dirt is washed out of the cooling tank.
- Remove dust and lint from all vents on the chiller, using a small vacuum cleaner, dusting cloth, or soft bristle plastic dust brush

**UV Filter**

Check the filter light according to manufacturer's instructions. The UV light should be replaced as recommended by the manufacturer, usually every year. Each kit comes with replacement instructions.

**Filter**

- Take apart your filter and scrub out the plastic parts with your 1:10 bleach solution.
- Thoroughly rinse out all filter cartridges (filter sponges, charcoal, etc.) with regular water, and dry them in the sun or a well ventilated area.
- It is suggested that you buy new filter cartridges for the following year. You can also use this year's filters that you rinsed out.
- Air-dry entire filter apparatus.